



L'art des petites robes est un grand art, said Mme. La Ferrière, when I asked her this morning to tell me in what she considered the secret of her art and that of the French dressmakers generally to lie. She is undoubtedly right. The art of the "little nothings" is a great art. I am more and more impressed with the belief that the Parisian couturières are world-famous, not because of their methods of cutting up and sewing together one stuff and another, but because of their appreciation of the true values of this, that, and the other item of the toilet feminine. The indefinable chic of the well-dressed woman is in or of the woman herself. The dressmaker can't give her that. If the woman have that the dressmaker may give her a Trilby coat and the shoe-maker a Trilby manner of footgear, and the indescribable fetching manner of madame or mademoiselle will render them accessory to the fact of her fascinating appearance. But the dressmaker can do a great deal, and over here she does a great deal. You can, to be sure, look like a tramp in Paris, a great many of the middle-aged French women are hideous. But it is easier in Paris to look as well as heaven means that you shall than in any other place.

You are a formless little unit. All the physical culture that seasons the Berkeley Ladies' Athletic Club, along with New York's Four Hundred, could bestow, still leaves you a thin bit of a figure. Laferrière acts as if she thought you were a Diana, but gets you up a velvet cloak like the sketch I send. It is a loose sacque, with the fronts and back forming two plaits each. The sleeves are huge. There is a collar that is

them put in their evening bonnets, on their belts, and with the admiration expressed so frankly for glistening ornaments of all kinds, there is quite likely to be a revival of the gorgeous gaudy tunics of earlier centuries. Beautiful effects are produced by the application of motifs in all sorts of laces to silk and satin. Of course, only one kind of lace is used upon any one stuff; velvet, yokes and revers and collars of velvet also show sprays, single figures, vines, etc., which look like the most exquisite embroidery, but which are really lace motifs applied upon the velvet. French workwomen love to do this work, but they hate to finish the inside of a bodice, as our American dressmakers feel that they must finish their work.

Do you diet or do you not diet? That is the question every woman is asking every member of her sex. If you admit that you do not diet, but appease your healthy appetite on the ordinary good things the gods provide, then your kind, enthusiastic, and diet-following feminine will explain that to live long and decently within the bounds of fashion, you really must put yourself on some sort of diet regimen. There are at least 25 different menus prescribed by as many different authorities on health, and from this ample variety every woman is at liberty to choose the course of meals that may seem most nearly to suit her case and her preferences, according to the Chicago Inter-Ocean. No matter what your ailment may be, there is a diet outlined for its corrective, all the way from recurring appendicitis to early wrinkles and bothersome numerous gray hairs. Superabundant flesh is the chief reason for practice of self-denial in eating. "Nothing takes off fatty tissue like diet," explained the woman, who waved away the cream-jug and sugar-bowl, and dropped one slice of lemon in her tea. "Sweets, starchy foods, and grease are the prime causes of double chins and increased waist measures. Any one can lose fifteen or twenty pounds in a month by subsisting exclusively on meat and green vegetables. Quite a dozen women of my acquaintance have trimmed off forty pounds in ten weeks on this diet. In place of sweets we eat fruit; bread, potatoes, etc., are utterly abandoned, though we never permit ourselves to suffer from hunger, though."

There are but few varieties of the ever-blooming class of roses that can be made to grow in the window-garden, and these will be satisfactory only when given the best of care. Agrippina is one of them—a slender but rampant-growing sort, having flowers of a rich, velvety scarlet crimson. The flowers are not large, nor very double, and the fully-expanded blossom is not at all the ideal rose in form or substance. But when you can't have the best, be content with what you can have; its beauty just as they begin to

Nearly every amateur florist attempts to grow roses in the house, but almost always the result is a failure. But one failure does not lead to an abandonment of the experiment, for no other flower has such a hold on the heart of the people as the rose, and many would grow nothing else in the window-garden if they were successful in its culture. But, the fact is, it is one of the most difficult of all flowers to grow well in the living-room. There it cannot have the evenness of temperature and the moist air which suits it, and, though it may live along indefinitely, it will not flourish except in rare instances, and those of us who have a window-garden like to have flourishing plants in it, or none at all.

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the yoke tab. The front of the bodice is ornamented with horizontal tucks, one inch deep, extending from the yoke, where it is very fully gathered, to a little below the bust. The back is tucked to correspond, with the front fitting smoothly across the shoulders.



Gown and Black

the back, while the velvet collar band is beaded with a narrow frill of cream lace with a fall of the same at the back. Deep flounces of the cream lace are arranged over the sleeves under the tabs, and descend in front to the belt in pretty cascades. The leg-of-mutton sleeves are encircled with tucks from the shoulder to the depth as those on the bodice, which gives the effect of being a continuation of the tucks on the bodice. Frills of lace finish the sleeves at the hand.

WHEN MONEY IS SCARCE.

A Gown Useful for Most Occasions, and Is Trimmed With Taffeta.

A black woolen gown is always a useful gown, and there are many ways of brightening up these sober gowns. For a middle-aged woman they are fashioned with a full plain skirt, lined with black silk.

The fitted coat-bodice has short basques at the back and side, laid in small flat pleats at each seam, at the waistline, while the open fronts are pointed and turned back in revers of the woolen material, stitched under the edge. The full, taffeta vest has a black ground, over which is scattered a fine pattern. The collar-band is made of the taffeta, with a jabot of accordion-plaited black chiffon at the back. The gilet-sleeve has a silk cuff. When these gowns are made for young women they have round bodices, with Eton-jacket fronts, which are edged with stitching, and open on a vest of cerise, old-rose taffeta, or green mirror velvet, which is put in full, with the lower edge drawn under the wide belt, or allowed to drape on it, as is most becoming to the wearer. The plain collar-band of cloth has a turn-over collar to match the vest. The leg-of-mutton sleeves are untrimmed.

Here and There.

St. Paul has an area of fifty-five and two fifths square miles, on which live 130,000 people.

The area of Baltimore is thirty-one and one eighth square miles, and its population is 612,338.

In Omaha, Neb., 100,000 people live on twenty-four and one half square miles of ground.

The public debt of Cleveland is \$3,111,000, and the taxable property is valued at \$18,710,770.

John Rogers, of Portland, Ore., in 104 years old, and is hale and active. He says his father was 105 years old when he died. Cardinal Melcher's death, fellow Catholics on those of Cardinals Persico and Bonaparte, will keep alive the superstition that Cardinals always die in threes.

Joseph O'Connor, at one time editor of the Buffalo Courier, and more recently editor of the Rochester Post-Express, has become editor-in-chief of the Buffalo Enquirer.

Mrs. W. H. Mier, of Hunter's Bottom, Ky., had three babies recently—a pair of girls and a boy. A woman living near there can say, however, "Huh! That's nothing, I've had four myself."

Bridemaids' Gifts.

Next to the puzzle of the bridesmaids' costumes is the worry of the bridegroom over bouquets. An engaged man is somewhat nervous until he knows the number of bridesmaids for whom he is expected to provide flowers and trinkets when the happy event is celebrated. Complaints of "bachelors" that is so, and it is true that the English custom of a bouquet and a bangle, or a brooch, to each bridesmaid is looked upon with favor here. In counting up a list of fashionable weddings recently it was found that in thirteen out of seventeen marriages the bridegrooms gave such costly trifles as gold brooches and bracelets, as well as flowers, and those to from two to eight miles.

Wit Turned the Tables.

Count Jaubert had attacked Marshal Soult with a number of epigrams, and the Marshal, meeting him at a reception of the court of Louis Philippe, turned his back upon him just as the Count was coming forward to speak to him, and this in the presence of thirty people. "Monsieur le Maréchal," said Jaubert, quietly, "I have been told that you consider me one of your enemies. I see with pleasure that it is not so."

"Why not, sir?" demanded Soult. "Because," said Jaubert, "you are not



A New Thought

The Other Shore.
(C. Violet Malette-Wilson.)
Row me out to the sunset,
Row me, row me away!
Methink I see the fairy gates
And the break of the golden day.
I see a white hand beckon
Beyond yon cloud-and-shore,
And now a soul goes softly by
(Some soul at Heaven's door);
And now the glimmering silver wing,
Now that of a golden dove.
The peary gates are closing,
And the shadows are falling down;
On, on, to the unknown sea,
Ah, mystic hand from the shadow
How long till you beckon me?

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY.

Not a Military Illusion, But the Shades of Calling Frocks.

A calling gown is made of shot silk in blue and gray, with a pin-stripe of blue. The nine-gored skirt is quite plain.

The full bodice has a narrow yoke of white satin covered with cream-colored tulle lace, which extends over the top of the sleeves in form of a pointed tab, with a delicate pink and blue tab below it.

CENTRAL PARK IN WINTER.

steaks, eggs, oranges, and a sugary cup of coffee will make up such a dietarian's breakfast, with perhaps a bit of roasted toast. The meats are varied with vegetable salads, boiled green things, and more fruit at other meals, and by keeping close to the letter of such diet and taking a healthy amount of exercise the flesh is bound to disappear.

"But, but, but," said the dietitian, "I've some wonderfully reduced women who added to the meat and vegetables all the butter, cheese, milk, and cream they desired; but you must understand that the diet depends wholly upon the special ailment you wish to correct. If you are anemic, meat is the thing; and what Samson achieved with the jawbone of an ass is not a circumstance to the power of diet in a well-brilliant color. Women who want to get up a color and suffer from insomnia eat the meat course. Lilli Lehman, when she was recovering from her nervous prostration, used to eat as many as six huge slices of rare beef at one meal, but it regained her voice for her."

"That's all very well," chirped a pink-and-white little person among the sofa pillows, "but our theory is that the erring human liver is at the foot of all evil. Just try my doctor's fruit diet. It consists of fruit and milk only at dinner time, with everything you desire at breakfast and supper. You eat three quarts of milk a day, with grapes, oranges, apples, etc., and absolutely nothing else until 7 P. M., and rejoice in a digestion like Swiss clock-works. This is a healthy diet, and I know of no women who eat nothing but oranges and nuts. They tell me for a long life and perfect preservation of beauty there is nothing better than the fruit diet. It was a New Yorker who outlived his diet generation by a quarter of a century. At 80 he possessed the bloom of 30, and at 102, when she was killed in a railway accident, there was not a gray hair in her head, and she had a skin like a young matron. The Princess of Wales and Mrs. Langtry have for years been known to follow this diet. They never, of course, touch sweets or cereals."

"But don't talk to me of meat," insisted a newcomer, limping up to the tea-table. "Why, if you eat meat long enough you will become as bald as a baby and a victim of gout and corns, or to speak of rheumatism. Green food is the only food, with aerated bread; not even an egg is permitted, and no sweets, of course."

The Gossipper.

The walls of the home are too often covered with paper of trying lines. Lamp shades are well worth considering. The eyes must always be rested when the light becomes the least blurred or indistinct. Sewing on a material after daylight should always be avoided when possible. But when sewing by lamplight is necessary, spread the table with a white cloth. Dark glasses are excellent for resting the eyes if the glare of sun or of the sun upon ceilings and causes them to pain.

The deep circles so often remarked under otherwise charming eyes come from one of several causes. The most frequent of them are sleeplessness, anxiety, or poor circulation. The orbit of the eye is filled with cellular tissue and fat with many blood vessels. The skin below the eye is extremely thin, and if for any reason the vessels are relaxed, the same prominence is manifested by the dark circles under the eyes. The remedy, of course, is plenty of rest, and more healthy exercises. What should be the whole system needs.

The eyes may be refreshed by baths of warm water, and after a night of rest, or a good sleep, the eyes will be refreshed. The eyes may be refreshed by baths of warm water, and after a night of rest, or a good sleep, the eyes will be refreshed.

MY LADY'S WINDOW.

What to Do to Make it Attractive.

SIMPLE DECORATIVE POINT.

Old-Fashioned Plain Windows Can Be Easily Beautified—Interior Improvements—How to Build a Recess.

(Written for the Dispatch.)

When one comes to look carefully into the matter, it is astonishing how many houses have the old-fashioned, ugly windows flush with the wall, giving it on the outside very much the appearance of a doll's house, or one cut out of paper. I have noticed whole streets of them, and found a dreadful monotony about them.

It is almost impossible to improve matters on the outside. All that can be done is to have nice white curtains, frilled, butter muslin being the prettiest for the bedrooms, and handsome lace for the sitting-rooms, and perhaps some window boxes filled with flowers in the summer time will give individuality to a house and proclaim aloud the fact that the mistress thereof is a woman of taste. For the dining-room and drawing-room sills there are very artistic stands made of scrolled ironwork, and holding three china bowls each, one of color, a daffodil-yellow being the most effective, and these, filled with plenty of white and yellow flowers, will be charming.

For the up-stairs windows, which cannot be so closely criticized by the passer-by, some wooden boxes will answer the purpose very well, but they should have at least three coats of yellow paint, which will make them quite smart, especially if plenty of yellow canaries are placed over them, with some white Marguerites and yellow calceolarias above.

But this is hardly the season of the year in which to descend upon summer flowers; so I must turn my attention to the inside of these ugly windows, which, perhaps, worse than the exterior. Flat walls and straight lines are the bane of every decorator, and I have known think of certain rooms I have known where the curtains are looped back, either with brass chains or large ribbon sashes, and a solitary chair is placed between them, in such a position that nobody sitting in it could look out into the street without twisting his neck nearly off.

To mend matters, I would suggest that a shelf for china should be fixed to the wall just above the window, painted the same tint as the rest of the woodwork in the room, and having a little balcony-railing in front by way of a finish. This shelf need not be a broad one, as the window does not require to be so wide; but should be a length projecting ten or twelve inches on each side beyond the glass. Two small rods should be fixed just beneath it, supported by brackets, on either side—very light, and the other to hold thin ones. Neither pairs of curtains should reach more than four inches below the sill, the outer ones of velvet, plush, or brocade, and the inner ones of muslin or guipure, and I should like to see straight down, without any draping, and the thick ones should be drawn together at night.

There will probably be two, or perhaps three, windows in each of the reception-rooms, and their appearance must be diversified by the furniture as much as possible. In one window a small seat, covered with tapestry, and having arms at each end, would be charming, with one of the giant trumpet vases on one side of it, filled with tall foliage or branches of blossoms. To color the sketch, I can picture a room where the walls are covered with paper of "straw" green shade, edged with green pompon fringe, and a gray feather pompon placed close to the edge, with half resting on the toque and half on the hair.

In another window a "flower-table" would look well. They are very quaint if the vases are of graduated heights, the tallest ones being at the back, of course. The table should be covered with a cloth of melon-green art serge, edged with green pompon fringe, and this color is the best foundation for any floral decoration in a room. Let the table be a solid one, standing on four legs, and if it has a lower shelf, put plenty of heavy books upon it, so that it may be weighted, as well as guard against accidents of overturning as much as possible. A third window, which will be an end one, can have a low seat in front of it, forming a corner divan, and well padded up with cushions.

Where there are two windows only in the drawing-room a pretty plan, and not a very difficult one, is to "recess" them. To do this place a shelf on the top of each

window, quite two feet broad, with a balcony railing running all round. Close under the shelf, and bending round the sides until it almost touches the wall, let there be a thin iron rod, supported by brackets, and upon this run a pair of wide curtains, which fill four sides of the recess, as well as a drapery in the front. Each curtain will require a width and a half to two widths of 50-inch material, and if it is not reversible its inside must be lined with satin. These curtains should touch the ground all round. Another thin rod must be fixed across the top of the window, and quite close to it, and from it should hang a pair of white lace or muslin curtains, just reaching the sill.

There will be a nice recess almost two feet deep, and this will make a charming place for a low, broad seat, or for a writing table of chairs. The space between the two windows should be kept as flat as possible, and I would advise a long panel of looking-glass, reaching from floor to ceiling, with a jardiniere on top of it.

HELEN.

LOVE'S SILVAN RETREATS.

The Fashionable Bride Hunts Moose and Caribou in the Forests.

"Where do the newly-wedded spend their honeymoon?" somebody asked the other day, and a girlish matron, whose dignities are not more than six weeks old, promptly assured the inquirer that this winter the Maine moose, and the Canadian caribou are hunted, are gay with bridal parties. "It seems a chilly thing to do," assented the little wife, easily, "but it's tremendous fun, and far ahead of a sentimental journey to the Mediterranean coast. The young couples leave trousseau luggage behind them and disappear, with guides, tents, and mountains of furs into the big forests for a fortnight, and then they come back with a lot of the conditions that makes everything seem so amusing, and some of the honeymoon-hunters have gone as far north as Nova Scotia. Most of the brides about well themselves, but even if they don't care to try their chances at one of the lords of the northern forests they find the snowshoe tramps fun enough, act as rifle-bearers for their husbands, learn to draw marvelous melodies from the huge moose call, visit the lumbermen's camps, and thrive on the crystalline air and the fresh game cooked over the huge camp-fire." Says Demorest's Magazine, "One bride brought down a moose to her own credit, and the argument is that the horns and head of the big beast, when mounted, shall be the first piece of furniture taken into the new home. This, it is supposed, will bring great good luck."

Mrs. with rather a comical feeling of mixed pleasure and dismay that an upstart grandmother of the period finds herself in the midst of the disney rather ponderous, as the tiny scrap of humanity placed in her arms causes her to realize that she is entitled to that venerable title which she has Germans associated with old age and more or less decrepitude. As many of the grandmothers of our day are charming women, still in the zenith of their good looks and power of attraction, it is hardly to be wondered at that they should dislike a name that is not even pretty or loving, and that they should teach their children's children to call them by some more attractive title, a still youthful grandparent from the neck to the heels. The leg-of-mutton sleeve at the wrist is cut in two points, which fall over the hand, a style that has found favor with many of the fair sex, as it makes the hand look very small.

A very smart little has a skirt of dark-blue taffeta, falling in many graceful folds and finished without garniture, and is lined with light-blue glass silk. The stylish astrachan jacket has short, full basques, and is lined with glass silk, the same shade as the skirt lining. The epaulettes, belt, and collar are made of chinchilla fur, while two revers of the astrachan trim the centre of the front from the neck to the belt. The leg-of-mutton sleeve at the wrist is cut in two points, which fall over the hand, a style that has found favor with many of the fair sex, as it makes the hand look very small.

The black velvet toque is trimmed on the left side by a black ostrich feather and black aligrette, and a gray feather pompon placed close to the edge, with half resting on the toque and half on the hair.

Warlike Paragraphs.

The "Fire nations of Europe" own 2,130 warships, mounting \$3,300 guns, all ready for "immediate service." The most expensive army of the world is that of Germany, which costs from \$40,000 to \$50,000 per man. During the war the Union captured 67,000 Confederate soldiers, and the Confederates captured 12,000 Union soldiers.

of 200,000 tons and \$21,000-horse power, and 90 others in process of construction.

Since Napoleon "died like a caged lion in his exile home," 4,000,000 Frenchmen have perished in the wars of that country.

The new German rifle ranges up to 4,000 yards, and at 900 yards the bullet will pierce ten inches of solid pine timber.

During our civil war the Union Ordnance Department served out 7,592 cannon, 4,023,000 rifles, and 12,207 tons of powder. Since the Mauthcher gun came into use, the ratio is four killed to one wounded—just the opposite to what it formerly was.

The German war fleet is made up of but eighty-six vessels, and is the most modern, and, on that account, probably the best in Europe.

Britain boasts that the guns now used by her army will send a bullet through four ranks of men at a distance of 400 yards.

The Forum gives figures to prove that the "warmed" armies of Europe cost the people more than \$1,000,000,000 per year.

It is estimated that over 4,000,000,000 human beings have perished in the wars of the world since the opening of the Christian era.

At the battle of Austerlitz 170,000 men were engaged. At Waterloo 165,000 men fought; of that number 50,000 were killed or wounded.

The great gun factory at Washington—one of the largest in the world, employing 1,500 men—turns out guns valued at \$50,000 apiece.

In 1857 General Sherman predicted that "the most terrible war ever known will take place in this country before the end of the century."

During the memorable siege of Sebastopol the batteries of the allied armies threw upwards of 40,000 tons of shot and shell into the city.

Ideas and Fancies.

Early morning cab calls tell us that the season is at its height.

Lillian Russell may have discovered the secret of eternal youth.

It isn't always the one who talks the most who does the greatest harm.

Philadelphia women are delightfully conservative in dress on the street.

A novel timepiece is a little clock set in the heart of a yellow majolica rose.

A rose boudoir is owned by a dainty creature bearing the name of that flower.

Many a fair woman has a velvet cloak in her closet; it is the latest form of hat pin.

A wide wedding ring doesn't make the marriage a bit more happy than a narrow one.

What the Savage Club Likes.

Miss A. A. Schmidt, the cordon-blue of the Savage Club, of London, gives this as her pet recipe for half-moons of salmon, a Pindian, and she says: "This is a very nice and economical dish, and can be served with a fish course or as an entrée. Any cold salmon that you have left may do. Take all the skin and fat part of the salmon, mince it finely, with about half a pound of the meat. Season it with cayenne pepper and a little salt, half a teaspoonful of anchovy sauce, a teaspoonful of cream, or the yolk of an egg. Mix all this with the meat. Make a sauce."

Birds in Sacred History.

The Greek Church people of Russia regard swallows as being sacred birds, but kill sparrows whenever the opportunity offers. The swallows are the swallows ministered to Jesus while he was hanging on the Cross, but that the sparrows took His flesh and did their best to pick off His eyes. On this account they say that the sparrows' legs are invisibly bound, which causes their gait to be a succession of painful hops. In this way the sparrow doomed to move about until the day of judgment.

Airy Trifles.

A carpenter and individual taste will produce a delightful cosy corner at very little expense.

A woman can wait at the station two hours without showing much impatience as a man does in ten minutes. "Pur cases will continue their vogue at the seashore next summer. If you can get a bargain in one now, secure it. The stationer is a great put-door institution. It is not, however, intended to be worn at tea. Certain cold is sure to follow if you do."

For the Summer Girl's Campaign.

The woman who is devoted to things nautical should have at least one room in her house curtained with fishnet drapery. This effective material is an excellent imitation of genuine fishnet, is somewhat softer, and drapes better. It is made of threads woven with a loose, coarse mesh, and when used for curtains is generally finished with a flounce of itself. An odd idea is to have the pole from which the curtain hangs shaped like an oar. If the curtains are tied back at all, let it be with ribbon the tint of the sea.

Roses and Sequins.

A Paris craze is hand painting upon satin and velvet. For instance, an exquisite bodice in white satin has ruffled sleeves, and the back is covered with hand painting, with the back ground a glittering mass of tiny steel sequins. There is every reason to believe that the gorgeous effect now shown in garniture will prevail in the spring.

Among the American Indians and the

negro races there is ample proof that woman was the first to gather the grain and house it in granaries of thatched straw. To her, also, belongs the honor of having tamed the cat and domesticated it into an animal which would protect this grain. This she did by raising the young by gentle means.

Leap Year.

(Washington Star.) How swiftly time flies. Yet his efforts fall flat.

When engaged 'gainst the girl of to-day, In the dim light they set; Talked of this and of that, As they watched the old year fade away.

The bell pealed its message; and just as it broke, The silence, with manner alert, She caught her breath. Then she spoke, And left him there dumb and inert.

And now, like a man who has been, He tries to tell her what he means, But she has the word, And she has the word, And she has the word.

To the end of the world, And she has the word, And she has the word, And she has the word.